

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please delete the paragraph on lines 4-9, and insert the following therefor:

“This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/388,860, filed March 14, 2003, for “MODULAR LOW COST PALLET AND SHELF ASSEMBLY,” by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/829,589, filed April 9, 2001, for “MODULAR LOW COST PALLET AND SHELF ASSEMBLY,” by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, now issued as U.S. Patent 6,609,466, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/358,285, filed July 21, 1999, for “MODULAR LOW COST PALLET AND SHELF ASSEMBLY,” by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, now issued as U.S. Patent 6,244,194, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/081,411, filed May 19, 1998, for “MODULAR LOW COST PALLET AND SHELF ASSEMBLY,” by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, now U.S. Patent No. 5,979,338, issued November 9, 1999, which claim benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/046,883, filed May 23, 1997 by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, and entitled "MODULAR PALLET AND SHELF ASSEMBLY USING CONVENTIONAL HARDWARE," and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/062,754, filed Oct. 23, 1997 by Jeffrey Salmanson and Jon R. Dickey, and entitled "MODULAR LOW COST SHELF ASSEMBLY," all of which applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, line 26, to page 5, line 9, with the following:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the present invention. The invention comprises a plurality of L-shaped vertical support members 100, which are so arranged to accept a pallet 102 therebetween. In one embodiment, the pallet 102 is a common two-way wood pallet, which accepts forklift tongues in slots on the front and rear of the pallet 102. In an alternative embodiment, a four-way pallet may be used. The four-way pallet comprises additional slots [[to]] on opposite sides of the pallet to accept forklift tongues, thus allowing the pallet to be lifted by a forklift from any side. The design of the pallet 102 can be changed to accommodate different loads, with heavier-duty construction pallets 102 employed for maximum strength applications. Each vertical support member 100 comprises a plurality of keyhole shaped apertures 108 disposed on the right angle portions of the vertical support members 100. In one embodiment, the vertical support members 100 are commonly available angle posts that are 84 inches in length.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 6-14, with the following:

FIG. 5 presents a close-up view of the employment of the cleats 126 in the present invention. Nominally, each cleat 126 is L-shaped, and comprises [[a]] one or more cleat tabs 111 on one outer surface, and one or more keyhole-shaped apertures 108 on the other outer surface. In one embodiment, the cleat 126 is affixed to the pallet 102 by one or more fastening devices 128 inserted through the keyhole aperture 108 in the cleat. The fastening device 128 can be a wood screw of suitable dimension or other fastening means. Optionally, vertical support member 100 can be further secured to the pallet by one or more additional fastening devices 130. Cleat tab 111 extends within a keyhole aperture 108, and may be secured with an additional fastening device as described herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, line 23, to page 11, line 5, with the following:

FIG. 10 shows a perspective view of the foregoing embodiment of the present invention. Safety devices, such as clips or right angle bolts 142 can be inserted into keyhole apertures 108. In the event of a tab 110 failure, these safety devices serve to restrict excessive motion of structures that were supported by the failed tab 110. In the illustrated embodiment, right angle bolt 142 is inserted into keyhole aperture 108A. The right angle bolt 142 comprises a head structure 144 which prevents passage through the keyhole aperture 108, and preferably, a shank structure 146 that is smaller in cross section than the smaller portion of the keyhole aperture 108. In one embodiment, shank structure 146 is of sufficient length and/or mass to assure that the right angle bolt 142 is balanced [[to]] so as to remain in the keyhole aperture 108 after insertion. If necessary, the safety device may be locked or secured into the keyhole apertures by bolts, clips, pins, or other means.

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 20-28, with the following:

FIG. 15 illustrates another embodiment of the present invention using double-sided keyhole apertures 200. In this embodiment, a strengthening segment 220 is placed between the double-sided keyhole apertures 200 to increase the strength of the modular shelving. This configuration is particularly well suited to heavy loads. Strengthening segment 220 can be implemented by a greater distance between double-sided keyhole apertures 222 and 224, a greater distance between the double-sided keyhole apertures 224 and 226, or a greater distance between both. Alternatively, a

vertical support member can be reinforced in this ~~[[are]]~~ area as required with additional thickness material, molding or stamping a stronger shape, or by heat treatment.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 5-17, with the following:

In addition to the aforementioned advantages, the present invention is also easily constructed and broken down. Construction is accomplished by placing pallet securing members 118 or cleats 128 about the periphery of the pallet 102 so that the pallet securing tabs 110 (or, in embodiments using cleats 126, the cleat tabs 111) face outward from the center of the pallet. Next, vertical support members 100 are placed at each corner of the pallet 102. Then, downward force is applied to the vertical support members to lock them to the pallet securing members 118 (or cleats 126). Then, the desired number ~~of number~~ and location of shelves is determined. At the aforementioned locations, four cross braces 104 are inserted into the structure with the tabs 110 on the braces fitting into the keyhole apertures 108 in the vertical support members 100. Downward force is then applied to the cross braces 104, affixing them in position. When so inserted, these cross braces 104 form a shelf upon which the planar surface 106 is placed, completing the construction. Disassembly follows the reverse procedure.